

Message Text

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10/14

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03 SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 VO-03

FDRE-00 AID-05 OPR-02 A-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /075 W

----- 026284

O P 240754Z APR 75 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9666

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMECONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 2211

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA THREE)

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG, CB, MY

SUBJ: CAMBODIAN NAVAL SHIPS AND REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA

REF: STATE 093158

1. THIS MORNING (APRIL 24) FOLLOWING RECEIPT

REFTEL DCM CALLED ON HASMY AGAM, PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT

SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF NON-ASEAN SOUTHEAST ASIAN

AFFAIRS, WHO WAS SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY

AVAILABLE. HASMY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY EMAN MOHAMMED

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HANIFF WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM TUMPAT.

2. DCM READ U.S. POSITION SLOWLY FROM
PARA 2 REFTEL SO THAT HASMY COULD MAKE NOTES (WE ARE
ALSO SENDING AIDE MEMOIRE). HE ALSO EXPLAINED
THAT IF SHIPS WERE MAP SUPPLIED USG RETAINED
RESIDUAL RIGHTS AND WE WOULD BE BACK TO DISCUSS
THEIR DISPOSITION. HASMY REPLIED THAT GOM WAS AT
THIS MOMENT MAKING DECISION ABOUT REFUGEES AND THIS
WAS REASON UNDERSECRETARY YUSOF, NORMALLY SENIOR
MFA OFFICIAL HANDLING PROBLEM, COULD NOT BE PRESENT.
HE THEN ASKED EMAM TO DESCRIBE SITUATION.

3. EMAM EXPLAINED THAT SHIPS WERE ACTUALLY
IN RIVER WHICH CONSTITUTES BORDER BETWEEN MALAYSIA
AND THAILAND. SUBMARINE CHASER E-312 IS STANDING OFF
RIVER MOUTH WHILE THE TWO LCIL'S P-11 AND P-112
HAVE BEEN ANCHORED IN RIVER AT A JETTY ATTACHED TO
POLICE COMPOUND. WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE ALL ALLOWED
TO COME ASHORE FOR BATHING AND TO RECEIVE ANY NEEDED
MEDICAL ATTENTION. ON A DAILY BASIS THEY ARE BEING
SUPPLIED WITH FOOD. SOME OF THESE SUPPLIES ARE
COMING FROM KELANTAN WELFARE ORGANIZATION WITH
SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPLIES FROM MALAYSIAN VILLAGERS IN
AREA AND FROM THAI VILLAGERS ACROSS THE RIVER
WHICH IS ONLY 50 METERS WIDE. FURTHERMORE, KING OF
THAILAND WHO WAS VISITING IN AREA SENT SOME FOOD AS
A GIFT. AS OF THIS MORNING, HOWEVER, ALL REFUGEES
HAVE BEEN PUT BACK ON THE LANDING CRAFT WHICH HAVE
JOINED THE SUBMARINE CHASER OFF MORE. THIS WAS
DONE BECAUSE WITH ONLY 4 OR 5 MALAYSIAN POLICE
PRESENT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL THE REFUGEES
FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME. FURTHERMORE, EMAM SAID,
THE CAMBODIAN CAPTAIN FEARED A MUTINY AND PREFERRED
TO HAVE EVERYONE OFFSHORE SO HE COULD BE ASSURED
CONTROL.

4. EMAM HAD TALKED TO CAMBODIAN CAPTAIN IN
TUMPAT FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO OUR EMBASSY. CAPTAIN
SAID THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO GO TO THAILAND,
IMPLYING THAT BASIC REASON WAS HIS DISTRUST OF
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THAIS. CAPTAIN HAD SPECULATED ABOUT RETURNING TO
CAMBODIA, SAYING THAT HE PREPARED GIVE UP HIS OWN
LIFE BUT COULD NOT RETURN WITHOUT ASSURANCES OF NO
MISTREATMENT OF OTHERS FOR WHOM HE RESPONSIBLE.
CAPTAIN ALSO SPECULATED ABOUT TRYING TO HEAD FOR
GUAM. IN END, HE ASKED THAT GOM FILL HIS FUEL
TANKS AND PROVIDE HIM WITH A WEEK'S SUPPLY OF FOOD.

5. HASMY THEN CONFIRMED THAT AMONG ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED BY GOM WAS SIMPLY FULFILLING CAPTAIN'S REQUEST. DCM URGED THAT GOM TURN TO UNHCR FOR ASSISTANCE IN TAKING CARE OF REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA. BOTH MFA OFFICIALS GAVE IMPRESSION THIS HAD NOT BEEN CONSIDERED AND ASKED ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES OFFERING REFUGEE ASSISTANCE THROUGH UNHCR (SEE K.L. 2198).

6. CONVERSATION ENDED WITH HASMY PROMISING TO REPORT U.S. POSITION IMMEDIATELY TO GOM OFFICIALS NOW TRYING TO MAKE DECISION AND ALSO PROMISING TO COMMUNICATE DECISION TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

7. ACCORDING TO JANE'S THE THREE SHIPS, ALTHOUGH OF AMERICAN ORIGIN, WERE TURNED OVER TO THE CAMBODIANS BY THE FRENCH IN 1956 AND 1957. WE THEREBY ASSUME THEY WERE NOT MAP FURNISHED. IS OUR ASSUMPTION CORRECT?
UNDERHILL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, TERRITORIAL WATERS, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA02211
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750143-1212
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750421/aaaaatlj.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 093158
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAMBODIAN NAVAL SHIPS AND REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA
TAGS: AEMR, MOPS, CB, MY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006